

AFAF continues 'A Commitment to Caring' theme

by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

"A Commitment to Caring" is the theme for the 2003 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign that begins Tuesday and runs through April 15.

A kick-off rally will be held at the pavilion in the Community Park Tuesday at 7:30 a.m., to get the campaign underway.

The Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force will set the 2003 campaign goal, which is anticipated to have a four percent increase from the previous year's goal.

The 2002 AFAF campaign goal was \$4.6 million Air Force wide and contributions were \$5.1 million, which was 111 percent of the goal.

AFAF was established to provide an annual effort to raise funds for charitable affiliates that provide support to the Air Force family (active duty, retirees, Reservists, Guard and family members, including surviving spouses) in need.

Four charitable organizations fall under the AFAF to help Air Force people with aid in an emergency, with educational needs, or to have a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members in need of financial assistance: the Air Force Aid Society; the Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation; the Air Force Enlisted Foundation; and the Air Force Village Foundation.

Donations can be made by cash, check or payroll deduction.

For more information, call the AFAF installation project officers, 2nd Lt. Jim Hair at 884-7212, 2nd Lt. William Savage at 884-5471, or Senior Master Sgt. Michael Weber at 884-7212.



Photo courtesy of the 14th Weapons Squadron

Two Weapons Instructor Course students, discuss defensive maneuvering against an air threat during a recent AC-130 syllabus sortie.

Weapons Squadron changes name, mission remains the same

by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

In a ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., the former Detachment 3, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, a tenant unit here, formally changed its name to the 14th Weapons Squadron Feb. 21.

A memorandum by the Air Force Chief of Staff directed the official name change of Hurlburt Field's 14th Weapons Squadron Feb. 3, along with the other USAFWS units.

The 14th WPS was modeled after the USAFWS, which is headquartered at Nellis AFB.

It was established to better integrate Special

Operation Forces with the conventional Air Force by providing SOF with a greater understanding of the conventional Air Force's capabilities, limitations and tactical employment considerations, explained Maj. Robert Sagraves, 14th Weapons Squadron weapons instructor officer. At the same time the integration provided the conventional Air Force with insight into SOF's tactical employment.

Part of the USAFWS mission is to teach graduate-level instructor courses, which provide the world's most advanced training in weapons and tactics employment to officers of the combat Air Forces, according to the

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News

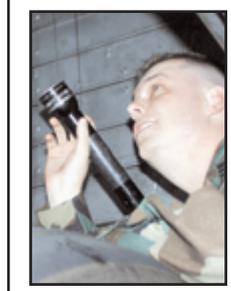


Best base award

AF Times presents best base award to Hurlburt Field

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Feature



Aircraft maintainers

Maintainers offer insight into duties and responsibilities

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Sports



Soccer Sunday

Commandos take on Emerald Coast Red Devils

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VIEWPOINTS

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



**Col. Frank Kisner,
16th SOW commander**

Slow down

Comment: I live on McMillan Street, in base housing, which should be called Racetrack McMillan.

I've noticed that the speed limit hasn't changed in the past 3 years, but for some reason people believe that it reads 51 miles per hour instead of the posted 15 mph.

This evening I was taking a walk with my 2-year-old daughter and I went

to cross the street. I looked both ways, but coming around the curve was a car that could not have been going 15 mph. I literally had to turn around and go back to the side of the street to avoid nearly being struck by the driver's vehicle.

My question is what can be done to help alleviate this problem? If there's some way family members could help I would be glad to. Thank you for your time and I hope we can come together

and think of a resolution to this issue.

Reply: Thank you for your concern about speeding in the housing area. Speeding in base housing endangers our families, especially our children, and will not be tolerated.

While security forces have increased their patrols in the housing areas, they cannot be everywhere at once. The best way that base members can help is to report unsafe drivers to the security forces control center at 884-7777, so they can be dealt with appropriately.

People should have the vehicle's license number, make, model and color available, if possible when calling. Security forces will notify the driver's first sergeant or commander of the complaint so they can also deal with the situation at the unit level. Security forces also tracks the number of complaints a person has and forwards that information to a driver's unit when multiple complaints have been filed.

2004 budget proposal keeps quality of life in forefront

by Chief Master Sgt.
Gerald Murray
CMSAF

As units throughout our Air Force deploy, posture for deployment, or ramp up for accelerated operations at home, it's important to know that senior leaders are aware of how hard each of you is working, and that they're grateful for your dedication to the mission.

Nowhere is that appreciation more evident than in the President's 2004 budget proposal, which was unveiled last week. In the proposal, the largest chunk of Air Force money is focused on you – our greatest asset. People and quality-of-life initiatives make up 34 percent of the \$93.5 billion in Air Force money.

The most tangible part of that budget for most of us is the proposed pay raise, which ranges from 2 percent for our E-1s to 6.25 percent for our most senior NCOs. I want to take a moment and explain the "why's" behind this proposal, and what it means to you as an enlistment airman.

We have enjoyed several targeted pay

raises in the past four years in a concerted effort to bring our military pay into a comparable scale with that of our private sector counterparts with the same level of education and experience. We have been very successful in doing that for the majority of our junior ranks – the compensation for an airman entering the Air Force out of high school is better than 85 percent of their former classmates who chose to go to work in the private sector. That does not take into consideration enlistment bonuses, or other special and incentive pays the Air Force provides to some skills.

However, the gap between civilian and military pay widens at the NCO and senior NCO ranks, with our senior NCOs in some cases earning only half of what their civilian counterparts with the same skills, education and experience level earn. The 2004 targeted pay raise proposal will continue to address that gap, giving an average pay raise of 4.6 – 4.8 percent to NCOs, and between 5 percent to 6.25 percent for senior NCOs.

Another factor considered in setting this proposal was the time a person

spends in a particular grade. E-1s are in a transitional phase of their career. By the time an airman completes basic training and technical school, most are already E-2s and E-3s. The high promotion rates of the past few years have also driven average sew-on times down; the average time for promotion to staff sergeant is now 4.6 years, significantly less than years past. Those same E-1s coming in now with a two percent pay raise will enjoy the benefits of the NCO targeted pay raises much sooner than in the past.

While we know we can never pay you enough for the sacrifices you and your families make for our country, targeted pay raises are a good way for us to reward the skill and experience of our retention-based force while giving our young airmen motivation to advance as they look up the pay scale.

In today's environment of high operations tempo, deployments and demanding missions, every member of our force is an integral part of the team, and we will continue to seek adequate pay and compensation for all you do. Thank you for your dedicated service.



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Submitting articles

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To place a free non-business classified ad in the COMMANDO, customers must come to Building 90210, Room 326. Customers type their ads into a computer system located in the Public Affairs office.

NEWS

AF Times dubs Hurlburt Field as best base

by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Representatives of the Air Force Times presented the 2nd Annual Best Base Award to Hurlburt Field officials Thursday, recognizing the base's superior quality of life, community spirit and support for service members and their families.

Hurlburt Field was named best in three other categories as well: quality of life, recreation, and best base for singles.

"Hurlburt Field won because of the airmen stationed there now, and the airmen who've been stationed there before," said Lance Bacon, managing editor of the Air Force Times. "This award wasn't chosen by Air Force leadership or congressmen. It was chosen by the readers of the Air Force Times."

Winning installations were chosen using input from a 31-question survey with room for comments, and "Hurlburt Field got a lot of votes from people who've been there," said Mr. Bacon. "As an outsider looking in, the best thing about the base is the fact that the command cares enough about it's people to put in it's numerous quality of life programs."

Along with those programs comes a top-notch recreation environment. With spring right around the corner, people who love Hurlburt Field for the recreational activities it affords have reason to break out the barbecues and boogie boards.

"The excellent year-round outdoor activities make Hurlburt an ideal location," said Capt. Michael Nardo, 16th

Special Operations Wing. "As for the base itself, it's just a great place to be. What's not to like about a place that wins 10 different Best in Air Force awards in 2002 alone! Our people are highly motivated and it shows daily."

Part of that motivation can be attributed to the unusual Special Ops mission of Hurlburt Field.

"For me, it's the mission and our ability to make a difference in the security and welfare of our country that make (the base) a special place to be," said Tech. Sgt. Will Seabrook, 16th SOW. "That combined with being just a few short miles from some of the most beautiful beaches in the world make it a place like no other. Its quite literally a dream

base and a dream mission all rolled into one."

For others it's the people more than the playtime that make Hurlburt Field the best base around.

"From the ground up, the enthusiasm people assigned to this base have for the mission and the Air Force is really unique," said Maj. Sherrie Bunch, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Even when all these elements combined to bring Hurlburt Field the top award, Mr. Bacon recognized one feature that truly set the base apart.

"The airmen recognize how good they have it," he said. "Anyone can build a dorm or a bowling alley, but few can build a base family."



Courtesy photo

A patron enjoys kayaking at the Marina on the Soundside. Kayaks are just one of several amenities offered through outdoor recreation for Hurlburt Field members.

WEAPONS, Continued from Page 1

weapons school Web site.

The 14th WPS broadens that mission by "taking the best instructor pilots, navigators, fire control officers and electronic warfare officers from AFSOC's flying squadrons and subjecting them to 5 ½ months of intense tactical employment training in their aircraft," said Lt. Col. Christopher Connelly, 14th WPS commander. "We graduate them as weapons officers and send them back to their flying units to act as the squadron commander's primary advisor for tactical combat employment. Our graduates become the primary combat weapons and tactics trainers within their unit."

With a staff of 36 personnel including 26 officer instructors and eight enlisted instructors/subject matter experts, the squadron runs three separate weapons instructor courses (WICs): MH-53M, MC-130E/H/P and AC-130H/U.

Each WIC has more than 375 hours of academics, approximately 100 hours of flying and simulator missions, and a research paper, Major Sagraves said.

The course syllabus starts with a week of academics at Nellis AFB, and then the students receive a week with Special Forces units and Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) teams to get a better perspective of their missions, the major said.

Mid-way through the 5 ½ month course, the students return to Nellis AFB for more academics and finally a graduation exercise called Mission Employment, which is a two-week war exercise flown over the Nellis AFB ranges with about eighty aircraft participating at one time.

Throughout the course, the students are taught the "best tactics, techniques and procedures for combat employment of their aircraft, familiarity of all other AFSOC aircraft, and integration with the conventional Air Force," Major Sagraves explained.

Other than the required curriculum, Colonel Connelly said he hopes the students learn, "their credibility as weapons officers comes not from the 'patch,' but from thorough knowledge of tactics and their correct application in training and combat."

Colonel Connelly has been the commander of the 14th WPS for the past three years and credits Gen. Charles Holland, commander U.S. Special Operations Command and a former AFSOC commander, and retired Col. Steve Connelly, former AFSOC director of operations, for their vision in seeing the need for a weapons school detachment within SOCOM.

"Although our name has changed three times since the stand-up of the squadron, our focus and vision have remained the same," Colonel Connelly said. "Our goal is to continue increasing the combat capability of AFSOC by producing the most lethal warriors and outstanding weapons and tactics instructors."

Spotlight on ...



Lia Henry

Rank/Duty Title: Senior Airman/Commander's support staff

Organization: 14th Weapons Squadron

Hometown: Pensacola, Fla.

Contribution to the mission:

Airman Henry runs the commander's support section. She's the primary manager of the squadron awards and decorations program.

She ensures supervisors are aware of suspenses and checks awards packages for accuracy and completeness. She up-channels awards in the proper format for both base wide and Air Combat Command award programs.

Airman Henry is a key player in the squadron with major command expertise.

She's a total team player and the epitome of a true professional.

(Editor's Note: The COMMANDO highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)

AIR FORCE NEWS

Body modification, mutilation rules revised

by Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The Air Force has revised personal appearance guidelines in response to a trend involving extreme body modification and mutilation that is becoming common among a small, yet growing segment of the population, according to personnel officials.

This change is in *Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*. It prohibits airmen from intentionally altering or modifying their bodies in order to achieve a visible effect that disfigures, deforms or otherwise detracts from a professional military image, said Lt. Col. Frank Pombar, chief of the Air Force quality of life programs and uniform branch at the Pentagon.

“The Air Force is a profession of arms and there are certain appearance standards that we must adhere to,” Colonel Pombar said. “Whether in or out of uniform, we represent the Air Force and must conduct ourselves professionally.”

Although the colonel believes very few airmen will actually be impacted by this policy clarification, it will benefit recruiters, first sergeants, commanders and airmen.

“For some time now, recruiters have been seeing a growing number of people with extreme body alterations or piercings,” he said. “Without specific guidance, recruiters often had to rely on personal opinion or taste to make a decision as to what was or was not appropriate.”

However, this change to the AFI is not a checklist nor is it intended to tie the hands of Air Force officials, Colonel Pombar said.

The goal is to establish broad guidance to assist commanders, first sergeants, recruiters and airmen in determining what’s acceptable and professional, he explained.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor



The owner of this large tongue-piercing is a civilian. Air Force members are prohibited from getting their tongues pierced.

Administrative or disciplinary action will be left up to the discretion of each commander if they feel airmen have done something to themselves that might detract from their professional military image.

“This policy allows for some flexibility, but if anyone is considering some type of body modification or physical alteration procedure, they should talk to their first sergeant or commander before making a decision,” Colonel Pombar said.

The bottom line is that there are certain appearance standards that the service and the nation expects airmen to adhere to and therefore Air Force people must always strive to conduct themselves in a professional manner, he said.

The Air Force is not the only armed service that has considered changing its policy or guidance on dress and personal appearance. Each of the four services are seeing the same things and are beginning to adopt policies similar to the Air Force, he said.

“Hopefully we have created a useful guideline that will let everyone know what the Air Force standard is and what is expected of all men and women wearing the Air Force uniform,” Colonel Pombar said. (AFPN)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cherie Thurlby

Dust in the wind

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM – An Air Force MH-53M PAVE LOW performs “dust-out” training at a forward-deployed location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Look who’s talking: What keeps you going in life?



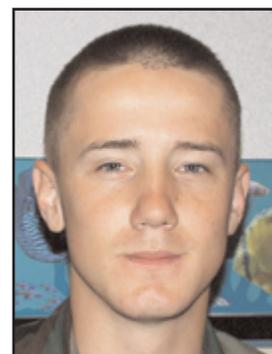
“Knowing I have family and friends who will be there whenever I need them.”

Airman 1st Class Brock Davis
16th Operations Support Squadron



“My job – I just keep smiling to the customers.”

Rose Walker
16th Services Squadron



“My family keeps me going. That’s why I’m in the military – to protect my family. That’s my motivation and inspiration.”

Airman Jeremy Whiddon
Det. 1, 334th Training Squadron

Baby teeth need proper care

by Maj. Susan Franssen
16th Medical Group

New babies can be a handful, and with all the attention and care they need, it can be easy to forget about how important baby teeth are.

Although these primary teeth will be replaced with permanent ones, these little teeth are critical for proper chewing, speaking and appearance, and they help maintain the space needed for larger adult teeth.

Serious tooth decay can develop by a child's first birthday. Baby-bottle or nursing-bottle tooth decay is a condition that can destroy the primary teeth of a child. It develops when a baby frequently drinks from a bottle of milk, formula, fruit juice or sweetened liquids, especially when the bottle serves as a pacifier or comforter. It may result when the child is allowed to fall asleep with a bottle for a nap or at bedtime. The teeth most likely to be damaged are the upper front teeth, but others can be affected as well.

Tooth decay is caused by bacteria, which live in a thin film of plaque that constantly forms on the teeth. The bacteria use sugars to produce acid, which erodes tooth enamel after frequent or prolonged exposure.

It's not just what children drink, but how often and for how long their teeth are exposed to the sugars and the resulting decay-causing acids. If a bottle containing sugary liquid is offered to a child as a pacifier many times a day, the teeth experience many acid attacks. If a child falls asleep with a bottle or while nursing, the liquid remains in the

mouth for a longer time. While sleeping, there's also less saliva flow to dilute sugars. The end result is long acid attacks, promoting tooth decay.

This condition is preventable, however. A bottle used as a pacifier between feedings or given to help a child fall asleep should only contain plain water. Pacifiers shouldn't be dipped in anything sweet, sugar shouldn't be added to foods and children should be taught to drink from a cup as soon as they're able.

The American Dental Association recommends that after each feeding, parents wipe or clean their baby's teeth and gums with clean gauze, a soft cloth, or a soft brush. This removes plaque and reduces acid exposure to teeth.

Children should visit a dentist by the time they're 1-year-old. A dentist can determine if the right cleaning techniques are being used, and whether there are any problems with a child's primary teeth. This can also create a positive pattern of dental care for children, because it gives them a chance to become familiar with dentists and dental clinics.

In addition, children's teeth should be exposed to an optimal amount of fluoride, a mineral needed for the development of decay-resistant teeth. Water on Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base is tested and has naturally occurring fluoride, so usually no supplementation is needed. A family dentist can tell if a child is getting the correct amount of fluoride.

Children can't do much for themselves starting out, and parents must know what to do so a lifetime of smiles can become a reality.



*Look who's
new in pink
and blue*

Girl

Tatyana Martina, born Jan. 2 to Senior Airman Nikola Pistolich and Senior Airman April De Los Rios, both 16th Component Maintenance Squadron

Boys

Reuben Alexander, born Nov. 8 to Staff Sgt. Adam and Lisa Dunaway, 16th Transportation Squadron

Johnathon David, born Dec. 10 to Staff Sgt. David and Peggy Hoppe, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron

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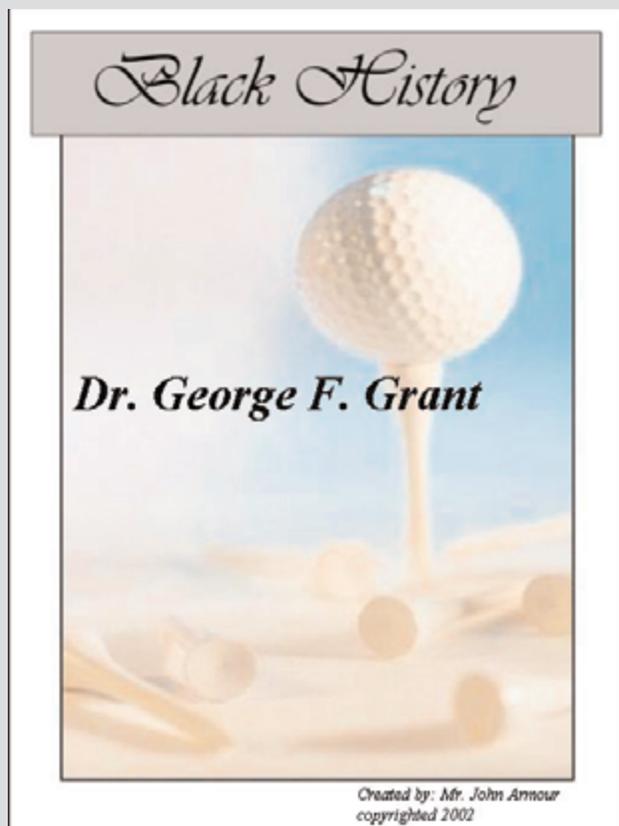
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February is African American Heritage Month



Courtesy graphic

Did you know?

In 1899, Dr. George Grant received United States patent number 638,920 for his invention of a golf tee - a small cone-shaped, solid piece of wood with slightly concave tops. Before Mr. Grant's invention in Boston, golfers had to construct small mounds of dirt on which to place their balls. A Harvard University graduate and prominent dentist, Mr. Grant never made an attempt to capitalize on his invention. The tees used in modern golf games were adapted from Mr. Grant's invention.

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Photo by Amy Oliver

Humvee-ing along

Capt. Michael Nardo, 16th Special Operations Wing, volunteered to represent Hurlburt Field Feb. 15 at the Mardi Gras celebration on Santa Rosa Island. The Humvee was donated on behalf of the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron.

FEATURE

Aircrew does behind the scenes maintenance

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Heidi Sawyer
Public Affairs

In an effort to provide an inside look into the aircraft maintainer's career field, the Air Force Sergeants Association interviewed three AFSOC airmen to be featured in a Sergeants Magazine article, scheduled to be published in April.

"The purpose of the article is to shine a positive light on an area that all too often gets overlooked," said Eugene Isaac, senior writer for the Sergeants Magazine.

With the help of 1st Lt. Ahave Brown, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, three maintenance personnel were chosen for the spotlight to shed light on the duties of an aircraft maintainer.

The Commando has attempted to capture some of the interview in the feature. For a complete look at the Sergeant's Magazine article, check out the April edition of the magazine.



Staff Sgt. Jeffery Clark, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, stands with an AC-130U Gunship, which is one of the aircraft he and his fellow crew chiefs are responsible for maintaining.

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Clark:
crew chief

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Clark, as part of the 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, inspects and maintains AC-130U Gunship aircraft.

"People don't see the hours, attention to detail and hard work that is involved in keeping base aircraft mission ready," Sergeant Clark said.

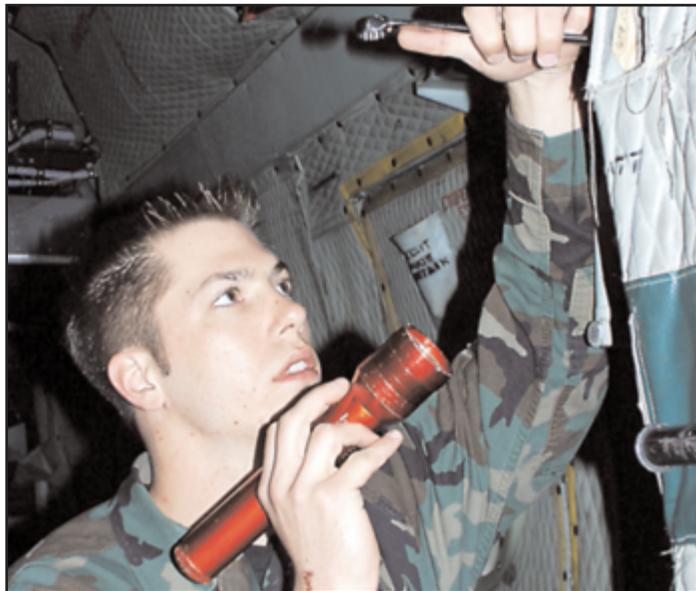
There are times when the crew must fix a complex mechanical problem on an aircraft that arrives late in the night in order for it to launch again in the early morning, he said. That's the true test of teamwork and trust within the unit.

"To be able to fix everything, service and launch it again in the morning is the best part of my job," he said.

The aviator, the aircraft and the crew chief form the core of the launch.

By keeping the crew in line and the aircraft serviceable, Sergeant Clark maintains a sense of pride and responsibility for his role in the Air Force.

"I feel our aircrews are among the most highly skilled and best in the Air Force," he said. "Therefore, I am responsible for giving them the best aircraft I can."



Senior Airman James Drybola, 16th Maintenance Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, repairs an MC-130P flight controls.

Senior Airman James Drybola:

As a pneudraulic specialist, Senior Airman James Drybola works with the MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft to conduct fuel in-flight refueling of the MH-53J/M PAVE LOW helicopters.

"The pneudraulics specialist job is critical for aircraft to fly," he said. "Hydraulics powers the flight controls, landing gear and other crucial parts of the plane. We also fix and inspect the aircraft so they can operate and support the mission."

The most complicated and highly overlooked aspect of the field is the process of

launching an aircraft. The aircraft requires several inspections and maintenance requirements from the crew when leaving and returning.

When complex problems arise, it could take hours even days to fix, according to Airman Drybola.

"People just don't know what happens 'behind the scenes,'" he said.

Maintainers keep the mission of the Air Force going in the right direction by keeping the aircraft operable and well fueled.

"They rely on us to be there every time, and by us being there, the Air Force is successful."



Staff Sgt. James Hardy, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, inspects an MH-53 PAVE LOW helicopter.

Staff Sgt. James Hardy:
crew chief

Crew chiefs in the 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron such as Staff Sgt. James Hardy, support the overall mission of the Air Force by supplying airworthy aircraft, so the squadron is able to train and conduct operations.

While most aircraft on base require approximately 30 maintenance man-hours for each hour of flight, the MH-53J/M helicopter needs more than 50 man-hours.

Sergeant Hardy said with that average, maintenance spends approximately 319,000 man-hours on aircraft alone.

The maintenance team starts each day with a flight schedule and works to make sure that

schedule is met. When complex challenges arise, the crew works together to diagnose the problem and corrective action is applied.

"The crew welcomes the hardships just for the pleasure received from being able to solve the problems," Sergeant Hardy said.

Although rotary aircraft maintainers are constantly on the road, in sometimes rough living and working conditions, and don't always have an established airfield to work from, the crew maintains a positive attitude, according to Sergeant Hardy.

"They are not fly-by-night personnel that are here to draw a paycheck," he said. "These men and women are loyal and committed servers to the U.S. Air Force."

Women's History Month

Courtesy of the 16th SOW
Military Equal Opportunity office

March is Women's History Month. Women have made many contributions throughout American history, and each week in March the COMMANDO will feature the accomplishments of women from different races and cultures.

Susan La Flesche Picotte (1865-1916)

Susan La Flesche was born on the Omaha reservation in Nebraska, June 17, 1865. There on the reservation, she attended government and mission schools to further her education and learned to speak English. She then went on to study at the Elizabeth Institute for Young Ladies in Elizabeth, N.J., and at Hampton Institute in Hampton, VA.



Susan La Flesche Picotte

Susan, who earned her medical degree in 1889 from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, graduated at the top of her class and became the first Native American woman physician.

Susan returned to the reservation where she practiced as a doctor for the Omaha reservation. She worked to improve medical care on her reservation and there she served as the head physician.

Susan rode on horseback to reach those who needed her. She answered calls day and night, in all kinds of weather, many times in sub-zero weather through drifts of snow.

She later organized a county medical society and headed the local board of health, where she set up a hospital.

Susan married Henry Picotte, a farmer of French and Sioux Indian ancestry in 1894 and they had two boys. The couple settled in Bancroft, Neb., where she continued to practice medicine. Susan died Sept. 18, 1916, in the Walthill hospital that she founded, which was renamed in her honor.

Because of her lifetime achievements, Susan La Flesche Picotte was respected as a leader of her people, by her own people and many others.



Photo by Vanessa Reyes-Adame

Jocelyn, daughter of Cynthia Turzak, 16th Mission Support Squadron, serves spaghetti at the youth center Feb. 7.

Spaghetti dinner cooks up fun

by Vanessa Reyes-Adame
16th Services Squadron

Dozens of parents who attended the spaghetti dinner at the Hurlburt Field Youth Center Feb. 7 got a break from cooking and instead had it served up by their children as a Valentine's Day gift.

At least 80 children did everything from preparing the food to decorating for the Valentine dinner that served approximately 120 guests.

Cynthia Turzak, 16th Mission Support Squadron, whose 9-year-old daughter Jocelyn served her dinner, took it as an opportunity to unwind.

"I think it's great," she said. "(Jocelyn's) a real big help at home and this gave us a chance to get out and play."

The Locomotion Dance Club served as

entertainment for the evening, while other children gave individual singing and dancing performances.

The spaghetti dinner had extra meaning for some military parents who don't always get to spend as much quality time with their children as they'd like.

"It's cool for both the parents and the kids to be here together instead of away," said Staff Sgt. Michael Porter, 19th Special Operations Squadron, parent of 6-year-old Gabriel.

"Overall (the spaghetti dinner) was a success," said School Age Program Coordinator James Dugan. "It opened up the night for them to get out and do something special together."

In the end, everyone walked away with a full stomach and happy hearts, he said. The youth center staff will continue to promote closeness between parents and children, and help parents create lasting friendships in the process.

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LIFESTYLE

Military

Free items from DRMO

The maximum reutilization of excess property in the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office is highly encouraged for authorized military purposes. DRMO is considered a valid source of supply, and every withdraw is subject to normal Air Force processing procedures for the commodity or type of item withdrawn. In other words, every withdraw is posted and accounted for in the Standard Base Supply System. The only real difference is that all withdrawals from DRMO are processed as free issue. For more information, call customer service at 884-6838/7676.

Hurlburt Top 3

All senior NCOs and master sergeant selects assigned to Hurlburt Field are invited to attend the Hurlburt Top 3 meeting Thursday. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. in the Enlisted Hooch. For more information, call Top 3 Vice President, Master Sgt. David Ceurvels at 884-8443.

FOCUS 56 meetings

All staff sergeant selects and technical sergeants assigned to Hurlburt Field are invited to join FOCUS 56 meetings every third Tuesday of the month at the deployment control center auditorium. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Timothy Gray at 884-5199 or Staff Sgt. Mary Williams at 884-2308.

Munitions in the workplace

The 16th Special Operations Wing, Weapons Safety office would like to remind people that the display of munitions (small arms, 20mm, 25mm, 40mm, etc.) are required to have a certificate of clearance for proof of inspection and verification that they are inert or empty. For more information, call 884-7496 or 884-2612.

CCAF progress reports

The Air Force Virtual Education Center has student services available online. Students can create their own AFVEC account and monitor their Community College of the Air Force degree progress. Personalized pages can keep students up to date on local education center news and events. For more information, visit the AFVEC Web site at <https://afvec.langleaf.af.mil>.

Air National Guard recruiter

Active-duty service members who are separating from the Air Force, but wish to continue serving part-time in the Air National Guard, now have the convenience of an Air National Guard In-Service Recruiter at Hurlburt Field. Master Sgt. William Andujar can assist in locating units in members' home states and discussing state and federal benefits they are entitled to claim. For more information, call Sergeant Andujar at the Military Personnel Flight, building 90210, or call 884-2729 to make an appointment.

Community

Cody Avenue closure

Cody Avenue will be temporarily closed for about two weeks as contractors work on coupling new utility lines with old ones. This closure will be done in three phases as follows:

Phase 1, Monday-Wednesday

The Northeast section of Cody Avenue from Tully Street through the library entrance will be closed. Access around the closure will be routed through Simpson Avenue or Lukasik Avenue. People will still have access to parking lots along Cody Avenue except for the bowling center/ health and wellness center parking lot. To get to this parking lot people will have to enter through the Tully Street entrance.

Phase 2, Wednesday-March 10

The middle section of Cody Avenue, starting south of the library entrance up to the Simpson Avenue intersection, will be closed. Traffic will be re-routed on Simpson Avenue. All parking lots will have to be entered through Tully Street or Lukasik Avenue.

Phase 3, March 10-17

The road section starting north of the intersection of Independence Street/Cody Avenue through the Simpson Avenue intersection will be closed. This is the critical part of the road closure. Traffic will be re-routed on Independence Street, turn left onto Terry Avenue, and then turn left onto Lukasik Avenue.

Family Fest Volunteers

Family Fest, an annual base-wide children's event, will be celebrated here March 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is held to celebrate Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month, as well as the opening of the youth baseball season, held at the Community Park. Many activities will be held for the entire family. More than 150 volunteers are needed to support this project. All individuals who wish to assist with this program should call Shannon Skoula-Clark at 884-1533.

TAP in advance

Transition assistance program counselors can now brief separating members 12 months in advance and 24 months in advance for retiring members. Currently, the TAP office is mainly seeing people separating with less than 60 days remaining on active duty. This isn't enough time for people to attend a TAP seminar, or to enroll in the Benefits Delivered at Discharge program to obtain a disability rating before separation. People are encouraged to enroll in transition assistance programs as far in advance as possible. For more information, call the TAP office at 884-6281.

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month and the Military Equal Opportunity office is in need of volunteers to fill the positions of chairperson, vice-chairperson and treasurer. Volunteers to assist in organization and support for the month's events are also needed. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Natasha Hollomon at 884-8746.

Hurlburt Field
Chapel
884-7795**Catholic Mass**

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.
Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September-May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise & worship),
11:30 a.m. (traditional),
12:45 p.m. (Gospel)

Religious Education: August-May
Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday and Sunday (PG-13) *iNational Security*, starring Martin Lawrence and Steve Zahn. Earl and Hank have only one thing in common: they're both L.A.P.D. rejects.

As lowly security guards, they uncover a sophisticated smuggling operation. These two unlikely partners just might save the day.

Saturday (PG-13) *iJust Married*, starring Ashton Kutcher and Brittany Murphy. Two young newlyweds find that their perfect honeymoon in Venice is turning out to be the worst one imaginable. Can the marriage, which many of their friends and family said was a bad idea, survive the celebration?

Eglin 882-1066

Friday (PG-13) *iA Guy Thing*, starring Jason Lee and Junia Styles. Paul tells a teeny lie, which turns into a bigger lie. From his bachelor party to the wedding, soon his lies are spiraling out of control. It's amazing how much can change because of one little thing: a guy thing.

Saturday and Sunday (PG) *iKangaroo Jack*, starring Jerry O'Connell and Anthony Anderson. Two friends from Brooklyn are forced to deliver mob money to Australia. One of them places his red jacket on a kangaroo, and the kangaroo bounces off. They realize the mob money is in the jacket and are forced to give chase through the outback.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled playdates.)

Community

OWCC Scholarships

Applications for Okaloosa-Walton Community College scholarship awards are due by March 28 for the 2003-2004 academic year. A scholarship booklet with an application for local scholarships is available at all OWCC locations and on the college's financial aid Web site at www.owcc.edu/financialaid.

Awards range from \$100 to \$1,200 and can be applied to tuition and fees. For more information, call the OWCC Financial Aid Office at 729-5370.

Enlisted-to-AFIT program

Nomination packages for those enlisted members wishing to complete resident Air Force Institute of Technology science, engineering or management graduate degrees must be mailed to Headquarters U.S. Air Force/DPLEE by March 25. The program is limited to master's degree programs offered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. For more information, visit www.AFIT.edu.

Tuition Assistance documents

Effective immediately, the education office will need the following information from students requesting tuition assistance for authorized courses: course

number, course title, course start/end date, number of credit hours, course's cost per semester, quarter or contact hour, and degree plan signed by school representative. Students must ensure the courses and degree programs are accredited by the Department of Education. For more information, call the education office at 884-6724.

Medical records review

The new Veteran's Administration's Benefits Delivered at Discharge program enables a military member to apply for disability 60 to 180 days from his retirement/separation date. Every service member contemplating retirement or separation should call the transition office at 884-6280 to make an appointment for a medical records review, or to get in touch with the following people/agencies: Call Disabled American Veterans' Chapter 72 Senior Chapter Services Officer, Jerry Rexford, Thursdays and Fridays for a medical review. To submit claims paperwork, call Veteran's Service Representative, Norman Freeman, Mondays and Tuesdays.

VEAP payment due

For people converting their VEAP benefits to the "MGIB in 2001," a payment of \$2,700 is due within 18 months of the day they signed the DD Form 2366, which had to have been signed no later than Oct. 31, 2001. Payments can be made by pay reduction in any amount, a lump sum payment or a combination of

both. Failure to make the payment will result in the loss of benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs. For more information, call Sherry DelCastillo at 884-6003.

Classes

Employment Orientation

Ever wonder what the job market is like in this area? Come to this class to find out about job listings, books, videos, computer/printer rooms, resumé assistance and more. For more information, call 884-5441.

Mapping Your Career

Mapping Your Career is designed for anyone desiring assistance with a career choice and to assist transitioning military members one to four years before leaving the military. For more information, call 884-6281.

Single Parent Meeting

A single parent meeting is a time to share the joys and challenges of being a single parent with others. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call the family support center at 884-5441.

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SPORTS

Commandos see a 'devilish' win

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class Heidi Sawyer
Public Affairs

The Hurlburt Field Commandos soccer team was out-shot by the Emerald Coast Red Devils, 5-2, Sunday on the Jet Drive soccer fields, Fort Walton Beach.

Although the Commandos pressed the Red Devils' goal from the start as they gained possession shortly after kick-off and hammered shots whenever the opportunity arose, they came up short of the win.

"We played against a team that we should have done better against. Most of them are friends of ours that we've played with and against many times in the off season," said Raul "Golden Foot" Martinez, 16th Combat Weather Squadron. "It's frustrating to play so well and still come away without a win."

With several mistakes by the Red Devils, the Commandos had several early chances to drive down field for the goal.

However, a loose ball off a Commandos' penalty kick resulted in a shot launched to the left bottom corner of the goal by Red Devils' Kanee Pabo in the first few minutes of the game.

The Red Devils continued to pressure the Commandos' defense, stepping hard to intercept the long ball passes and shots from the sidelines.

However, the Commandos guarded their opponents too closely, when they

fouled the Red Devils in the penalty box and gave them a shot on goal. With another score in their pocket, the Red Devils led Commandos 2-0 ten minutes into the game.

The Commandos got their chance to score shortly after, when they received an indirect shot on goal as a result of a foul. Player and coach, Yuhan Joseph, 16th Services Squadron, launched a long ball from the sideline sending it soaring into the right top corner of the goal. The Commandos closed the gap 2-1.

The Red Devils felt the pressure to push in on the Commandos' defense with more intensity. The Red Devils', Danny Mueller scored a goal to make it 3-1 when Shawn Robinson, Commandos goalie, stepped out from the goal for a loose ball.

In the second half, balls were launched on both goals, but the goalies were quick to respond with several last minute saves. Daniel Bruno, 16th Medical Operations Squadron, saw his share of challenges as he made several runs down the field, only to be met by the Red Devils' goalie.

However, Bruno finally got his shot 10 minutes into the second half. He was given a pass by Ricky Newman, 19th Special Operations Squadron, dribbled through the Red Devils' defense with ease, and launched the shot to the corner, tightening the score 3-2.

Unfortunately for the Commandos, the Red Devils retaliated a few minutes later and put another ball in the goal.

The Commandos increased their



Jeffrey Elliott, 16th Services Squadron, bi-passes a Red Devils' slide tackle.

level of intensity, however, that caused another foul in the penalty box. The Red Devils took the shot, widening the gap, 4-2.

Newman tried to close the gap with a shot on the Red Devils, but goalie, Michael Queen, knocked the ball over the top of the goal.

With only a few minutes left in the game, the Red Devils pressed the Commandos' defense with no mercy as they put in their last goal to win 5-2.

Go support the Commandos at their next game, which is scheduled for Sunday against the Pumas at 5 p.m. on the Jet Drive soccer fields.



Ricky Newman, 19th Special Operations Squadron (left), dashes past Red Devils defender, Dave Wakefield. (Below) Daniel Bruno, 16th Medical Operations Squadron, dribbles down field, scoring the second goal for the Commandos.

